to release 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1-12-1999.

Exemption of Sales Tax for RPL

2394. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL) is exempted from sales tax payment by the State Government of Gujarat for 17 years;

(b) if so, whether RPL has still been allowed to charge sales tax on public sector oil companies even though the same is not deposited; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited been granted provisional eligibility certificate under the Sales Tax Incentive Scheme of the Government of Gujarat. The scheme permits an eligible certificate holder to avail sales tax exeption benefit for 16 years or sales tax deferment benefit for 17 years or composite scheme of exemption and deferment for 16 years subject to conditions laid out in the scheme. M/s. RPL have opted for composite scheme. As per the scheme, RPL can charge sales tax under applicable sales tax laws of the State Government and the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, and RPL is billing the applicable sales tax on the sales of petroleum products to the oil marketing companies.

Setting up of a LNG terminal in Gujarat

2395. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Petronet LNG will be responsible for setting up a huge Rs. 2,950 crores terminal for import of 5 million tonnes (TPA) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons for selecting Gujarat for this project;

(c) how does Petronet LNG propose to finance this project;

(d) whether pre-qualified bidders are supposed to arrange offshore credit;